

## U. S. NAVY TO EQUAL MOST POWERFUL IN WORLD WAS ASKED

Unpublished July Report by Board Recommended Ambitious Ten-Year Policy.

### BAIS OF DEFENSE PROGRAM

Urged Expenditure, However, Double That Proposed Later by Secretary Daniels.

Following publication today of the annual report of the General Board of the Navy, urging appropriation of \$100,000,000 a year for five years for naval construction, it developed that the board had made an earlier report the details of which were not made public.

In the earlier report, which was made last July, the board recommended that "the navy of the United States should ultimately be equal to the most powerful maintained by any other nation of the world. It should be gradually increased to this point by such a rate of development, year by year, as may be permitted by the facilities of the country, but the limit above defined should be attained not later than 1925."

That paragraph is all the public has been permitted to learn about the July report of the general board, though there have been persistent reports of the existence of a suppressed report. In October, Secretary Daniels directed the board to prepare another report submitting a program "with an expenditure of about \$100,000,000 each year for five years, on new construction only."

**Basis of Defense Program.**

This October document formed the basis of the report recently made by Secretary of the Navy Daniels recommending ten dreadnaughts and six battle cruisers, fifty destroyers, and 100 submarines during the five-year period at a cost of \$200,000,000.

Secretary Daniels in his recent report said that he had exceeded the aggregate of the recommendations for appropriations made by the general board. It was the recommendations of the October report, however, that were exceeded. The estimated cost of the battle-ship building program submitted by the board in the earlier report has not been made public, but it is said to have called for the expenditure of more than double the sum urged by Daniels in his report to Congress.

**Depend On Battleships.**

The general board, in its report given out today, declares that "the battleship is still the principal reliance of navies, as it has been in the past."

"As in the case of submarines," the report adds, "so in the case of battleships, the particular concern of the present war does not justify the prevalent exaggerated idea of their importance."

Secretary Daniels and the general board were at variance on the question of submarines, the Secretary asking for fifteen feet and eighty-five coast submarines, while the board recommended only nine feet and fifty-eight coast submarines.

"The deeds of the submarines," the report says, "have been so spectacular that in default of engagements between the main fleets undue weight has been attached to them."

**Allies Recent Loss Sights.**

At the present time, says the report, the allies have learned in great measure how to protect their commerce as they learned a few months previously how to protect their navies from the submarine menace.

Figures are given to show that in eight months of submarine warfare only 133 merchant vessels and 17 destroyers were lost by the British of a total tonnage of half a million, while the total loss under other flags was more than 400,000 tons. During the same time 1,500 to 1,600 boats per week, or nearly 50,000 in all, have arrived and departed from British ports.

**Control of Seas.**

Presenting its arguments, based on experience of the European war, as the navy's needs, the board's report says:

"A navy in firm control of the seas at the outbreak of war is a prime essential to the defense of a country situated as is the United States, bordering upon two great oceans, a navy strong enough only to defend our coast from actual invasion will not suffice. Defense from invasion is not the only function of the navy. It must protect our seaborne commerce and drive that of the enemy from the sea. The best way to accomplish all these objects is to find and defeat the hostile fleet at a distance from our coast sufficiently great to prevent interruption of our normal course of national life."

"Our present navy is not sufficient to give due weight to the diplomatic remonstrances of the United States in peace nor to enforce its policies in war."

**Burned to Death.**

Jesse Parker, thirty-five, colored, was found burned to death late yesterday in his home, 2110 14th place. An overheated stove set fire to the man's clothes. He was found by relatives, who extinguished the blaze.

## Kiddy Borrows Money To Write Santa Claus

Another Tries Flattery in Effort to Get Doll Carriage. "I Am Two Little Girls," Pleads a Third, Appealing For Double Helping.

Up from the courts and the alleys, from the little side streets off the water front; from the houses of the poor where the Stork flies in at the window more often than Santa Claus; clammers down the chimneys, continuing the cry of the Christmas Disconsolates.

The cry comes stronger and more insistent as the natal day of the Manger Babe approaches. It is like another call which came to the early disciples of the Christ out of Macedonia darkness: "Come thou over and help us."

For the little voices from the tenements and shacks are urging: "Make His birthday a happy one for us!" Their letters to the patron saint of Christmas are still pouring into The Times office with every mail. The show windows downtown are all ablaze now of nights. Their thousands of electric lights hang upon a riot of toys. But the toys are separated from the hungry eyes of the pinched-faced urchins who stand and gaze and desire by thick unyielding barriers of plate glass, which invites just as it repels. And perhaps that is one reason why the letters from the disconsolate kiddies have of late taken a more tragic tone.

"Anything, Anything!" the little voices from the letters plead—"Give us anything Santa Claus, that you can spare—but, O, don't forget us!" More of the little intimate details of family misfortune—lack of work and illness, are beginning to creep into the mixtures, together with the hints of penniless mothers—aye, and grandmothers, too—who are watching the keen desire in the eyes of their disconsolate little ones, doomed to a toyless Christmas, unless Santa Claus, the Generous and the Powerful, bends his imaginary ear to their needs.

All the devices of childhood to catch the ear of the Christmas patron saint have been resorted to.

"Surely," the kiddies seem to have agreed, "if Santa Claus won't listen because Daddy is dead and Mother is poor, there must be some way to make him come. And so almost every little note is interlarded with professions of obedience and all the other virtues which parents from time out of mind have impressed upon their full-spirted offspring, as being a necessary forerunner to Yuletide remembrance."

**A Little Flatterer.**

And if the flattery of childhood could produce presents, there is at least one little girl who would not be overlooked for she has written:

"Please bring me a doll-baby carriage, and a pair of shoes, Santa Claus. I have been very, very good all the time. I do what my mother tells me. Please bring me those things, Santa Claus. Please keep your word. Santa Claus, I love you and I am always talking nice things about you. From a nice little girl."

Many and many are the requests for clothes in these eleven-hundred letters. Little girls want raincoats, anoles, boys' overcoats. When a letter will begin with a request for the toys which mean so much in kiddie life, and at the end an appeal for garments. Then, as a sort of postscript comes the pathetic appeal, born of shivery days in shabby apparel: "If you can't bring everything, Santa, please bring me clothes." And there is one little girl who wants "a white dress to wear to Sunday school."

**Phonetic Spelling the Rule.**

But there is a lighter side to the Christmas letters. If the shade of South Webster could just take a peek inside of some of the scrawny envelopes, his lexicographer soul would probably execute an indignant howl. Phonetic spelling is the rule, rather than the exception. This is a fair sample:

"Dears Scuntin: I will write you a few words kindly askin you to please give me a doll-baby carriage. I have no further and my mother is very poor and notal to buy any toys. I hope that you will give me some and with many thanks I will close. Josephine."

Another little girl clipped from a newspaper a picture of the fox she wants most. It is a little bear mounted on wheels. And although she has had faith enough in the kindheartedness of some Santa Claus who is willing to help her, she is afraid that through no fault of his own, her particular St. Nicholas may not be able to find her. Her letter is well worth reading:

**Borrows Pennies To Write.**

"Dear Santa Claus: I hope that you are well and will come to see me this year, as you did not come to see me last year, and I did not get a thing for Xmas, please Santa Claus come to see me this year, my mamma is awful poor and won't have any money to give to you. all that mamma has is three dollars a week, she pays room rent and buys two bushels of coal and the rest she has to live on please tell me if you will come to see me, if you find that the door is locked, please knock and lay the things down by the side of the door. I had to borrow the pennies to write to you with."

Something of the excitement of Christmas and the writing of Santa Claus letters is seen in the marvelous statement of another young lady who announces to Santa Claus: "I am two little girls and my father is dead. Will you send me two dolls, two carriages, two pianos, some candy and nuts and some cake?" From a little "shut-in" came this letter:

**Didn't Answer Letter.**

Fearing that because Santa Claus has not answered a former letter, a little girl has written:

"I am a poor little girl. Please bring me a pair of skates and some toys for Christmas. Please answer this letter, because I sent you a letter Saturday night and haven't received any answer. My people is not going to get me anything this Christmas. I didn't get anything last Christmas. Will you please answer this letter, please sir. I will certainly be obliging to what you give me. My mother is sick in the crazy room. My mother is sick in the crazy room."

One youngster who evidently believes that Santa Claus might be more inclined to supply practical gifts than mere extravaganzas, writes:

"I want you bring me those useful things for my Christmas. I want you bring me a train, a suit, a pair of shoes and a pair of stockings."

Development of the plan of distributing parcel post and other mails in the terminal railway postoffices in important centers of heavy mail traffic enabled the Postoffice Department to save \$432,403 during the past fiscal year, according to the report of the Second Assistant Postmaster General.

The report, which deals with the transportation features of the postal system, shows there are 3,484 railroad routes in the country, extending over 23,675 miles, and that the aggregate annual travel of mail over the routes was 499,611,017 miles. The average number of trips over the 3,484 routes was twenty each week. For the transportation of mail by rail the United States paid \$1,087,210.48 for the fiscal year. This was an increase of more than 6 percent over the cost of the previous year. In the twelve months which ended last June, the Postoffice Department handled 4,842 carloads, or 127,265,138 pounds of periodicals, the shipments being made by freight. The transportation cost was \$61,366.89. The report renews the recommendations to repeal the law Congress passed in 1912, prohibiting the enlargement of the policy of sending magazines and other periodicals by freight, in view of the success already attained.

The policy of equalizing the rates of pay for the transportation of mail by railroad routes on the basis of the lowest cost, where the department has the choice of dispatching mails by competing lines to the same destination with equal advantage, has resulted in adjustments of the railroads which mean an annual saving of \$29,829.64.

The report recommends that clerks of the first and second class in postoffices be allowed the same salary when transferred to the railway mail service. Under the present law the railway mail service pays smaller salaries than those received in postoffices for similar work.

**PROTESTS TO LONDON FOR MAIL SEIZURES**

United States Asks Explanation of Interference With Parcel Post to Sweden.

Specific instances of the seizure by British cruisers of more than 200 sacks of parcel post mail in transit between the United States and Sweden, called to the attention of the State Department by the Swedish minister, have brought a sharp protest from the United States to the British government. The London authorities also have been requested to make a prompt explanation.

Minister Ekengren of Sweden notified the State Department that 200 sacks of parcel post mail, which left New York November 27 for Sweden, on the steamer Hellig-Ölva, were seized at Kirkwall by British authorities. At the same time fifty-eight sacks of parcel post matter from Sweden to the United States were taken off the steamer Stockholm at Kirkwall by a British cruiser.

The Stockholm was permitted to sail, but the mail seized is still held. The Swedish government, as a retaliatory measure, the Swedish minister said, notified Great Britain that it would hold up all parcel post shipments destined to Great Britain which passed through Sweden. The Swedish government has not as yet agreed to receive such shipments.

The representations to Great Britain in this matter are independent of the efforts now being made by the Postoffice Department to obtain an agreement for the routing of parcel post shipments to Germany and Austria through Sweden. The Swedish government has not as yet agreed to receive such shipments.

**Grants Newbold Decree.**

A divorce and privilege to resume her maiden name was granted Jeannette Demme Newbold in a decree signed by Justice McCoy, in Equity Court No. 2, before whom the action against Leonard R. Newbold was presented.

**Grafonola and Records**

\$1.00 Down Will Place Any Grafonola In Your Home.

**Hugo Worch**

1110 G St. N.W.

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**Christmas Eggnog**

Old Gray Whiskey Four Full Quarts, \$3.50

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## \$432,403 SAVED BY P. O. IN DISTRIBUTION

Second Assistant Postmaster General Reports on Transportation Features.

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## All the Makings of a Merry Christmas

**W**ARMTH, jollity, Christmas cheer—and music in the home! While the Yuletide bells are ringing—while the world rejoices that Christmas is come—let the strains of well-loved old hymns recall the Christmas memories of childhood. Let the house echo to the merriment of young folks dancing and singing—let music bring to your hearth this season the festive spirit of Christmas!

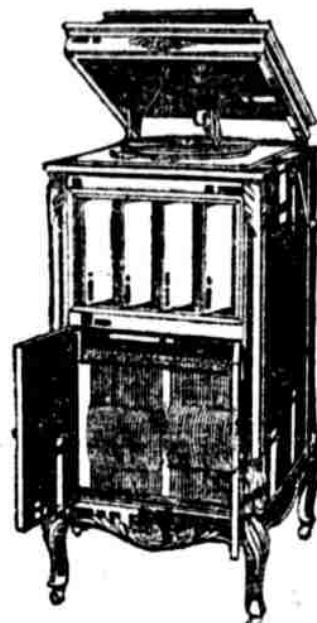
There are hundreds of Columbia Records appropriate for Christmas—or any other time when youth in spirit joins with youth in years in gay enjoyment of life.

Be sure to have the Columbia Record Catalog at hand when you are planning for Christmas and the festivities of the season!

**A**ND if you haven't bought your Christmas Grafonola yet, reserve it at your dealer's, QUICK! It may be the only chance you have to get the model you want in time.

From the way all the Columbia factories are rushed with Christmas orders, there seems to be no possibility of delivering any further instruments to buyers before the 25th, except those that Columbia dealers have in stock right now.

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Columbia Grafonola 110 Price \$110

Columbia Records in all Languages.

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